

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to properly reflect the status of the U.S. Patent Application cited therein.

The obviousness-type double patenting rejection of Claims 21, 22, 24-45 is obviated.

The Examiner states:

Claims 21, 22, 24-45 rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-31 of U.S. Patent No. 6,727,750. (Office Action, page 2.)

On December 9, 2004, the Attorney for Applicant, Serge J. Hodgson, left a voicemail message for the Examiner, Sheila V. Clark, regarding the apparent error in the listing of U.S. Patent No. 6,727,750. The Attorney for Applicant suggested that the Examiner intended to list U.S. Patent No. 6,737,750, as set forth in the PTO-892, Notice of References cited, that was attached to the Office Action.

On December 10, 2004, the Examiner left a return voicemail requesting that the Applicant describe the error in the Amendment filed in response to the Office Action and to use the correct patent number in any filed Terminal Disclaimer. If any further action is required on the part of the Applicant, please contact the undersigned Attorney for Applicant.

To expedite prosecution, co-filed herewith is a Terminal Disclaimer to Obviate a Double Patenting Rejection over a Prior Patent Including Statement Under 37 CFR 3.73(B). This Terminal Disclaimer obviates the obviousness-type double patenting rejection of Claims 21, 22, 24-45.

For the above reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Appl. No. 10/771,072

Amdt. dated December 21, 2004

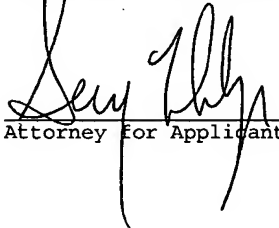
Reply to Office Action of September 22, 2004

Conclusion

Claims 21-22, 24-45 are pending in the application. For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of all pending claims. If the Examiner has any questions relating to the above, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned Attorney for Applicant(s).

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on December 21, 2004.

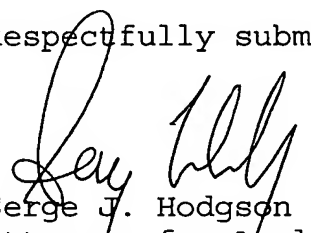


Attorney for Applicant(s)

December 21, 2004

Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,


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